GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:593
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
INDIAN WORKERS IN GULF
Maharia Shri Subhash;Nikhil Kumar Shri ;Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan;Rawat Prof. Rasa Singh;Tripathi Shri Chandramani

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian workers employed in the Gulf countries feel insecure as reported in "The Times of India" dated November 5, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof; (

(c) whether the Government proposes to sign a contract with Qatar and other Gulf countries regarding labour laws in the near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) & (b): No, Sir.

However, there were two recent incidents in UAE where about 4300 workers of Pauling Middle East Company on 28.10.2007 and about 35,000 workers of Arabtec Construction Company on 1.11.2007, had gone on strike demanding increase in salary etc. Such instances are rare in UAE. However, on the intervention of the Indian Mission, the problem has been resolved. In respect of Pauling Middle East Company except 159 workers of many nationalities, who were detained for indulging in violence, all others were released. Of these 159 detained, 90 were Indians, all of whom have since been deported to India. In respect of Arabtec Company all the workers have gone back to work with the intervention of the Indian Mission and the local Government except 500 workers of many nationalities who were detained for various reasons.

(c) & (d): In December, 2006 the Government signed an MOU with the United Arab Emirates and in April, 2007 with Kuwait. An additional Protocol with Qatar to update the 1985 agreement was signed on 20th November,2007. MOU with Malaysia has been initialed. Efforts are on to sign MOU with Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Yemen. Negotiations have been completed with Oman.